



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.003 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2013

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 20/06/2013

Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

ANNUAL SEASONAL REANALYSIS

The annual seasonal reanalysis was conducted on April 2013 estimates. See the article on page 7 of the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information.

NEW LABOUR FORCE SAMPLE DESIGN

The new labour force sample is being phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information.

REBENCHMARKING OF QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES

Labour Force quarterly industry and occupation estimates published in this issue for the period February 2011 to February 2013 have been revised to reflect the latest available information on population benchmarks - for further details, refer to the "What's New in Labour Force" section of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Article Archive

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS ARTICLE ARCHIVE: January 2011 - CURRENT

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also regularly released in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

New Labour Force Sample Design	May 2013
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	May 2013
What's new in Labour Force	May 2013
Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey	April 2013
What's new in Labour Force	April 2013
Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market	February 2013
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys	January 2013
What's new in Labour Force	January 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	January 2013
Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series	November 2012
Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey	July 2012
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey	June 2012
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia	May 2012
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates	April 2012
Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey	April 2012
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2012
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness	February 2012
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained	January 2012
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	November 2011
Historical Revisions	February 2011
Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey	January 2011

About this Release

A range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

and *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 29,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.33% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 97%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube* (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally

adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends* (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select annotate cells - standard annotations, and select 'Annotate RSE cut-off values'.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in

Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb 1978 - Sep 1982	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 1982 - Aug 1987	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep 1987 - Aug 1992	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 1992 - Aug 1997	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 1997 - Mar 2001	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 2001 - Oct 2007	4.9	4.1	3.7	2.0	2.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	4.9
Nov 2007	5.0	4.1	3.8	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	5.0
Dec 2007	5.0	4.2	3.9	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	5.0
Jan 2008	5.1	4.3	3.9	2.1	2.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	5.1
Feb 2008	5.2	4.4	4.0	2.1	2.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.1
Mar 2008	5.4	4.4	4.1	2.1	2.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	5.2
Apr 2008	5.5	4.6	4.5	2.2	3.0	1.2	0.9	1.3	5.3
May 2008	5.5	4.7	4.5	2.3	3.1	1.3	0.9	1.3	5.4
Jun 2008	5.6	4.8	4.6	2.3	3.2	1.3	0.9	1.3	5.4
Jul 2008 - Aug 2009	7.0	6.0	5.7	2.9	4.0	1.6	1.0	1.6	7.7
Sep 2009	6.6	5.7	5.4	2.7	3.7	1.5	1.0	1.5	7.2
Oct 2009	6.2	5.4	5.1	2.6	3.5	1.4	0.9	1.4	6.7
Nov 2009	5.9	5.1	4.9	2.4	3.3	1.3	0.9	1.4	6.4
Dec 2009 - Jun 2013	5.6	4.8	4.6	2.3	3.2	1.3	0.9	1.3	6.0
Jul 2013 onwards	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.8	7.8
Unemployed									
Feb 1978 - Sep 1982	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 1982 - Aug 1987	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep 1987 - Aug 1992	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 1992 - Aug 1997	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 1997 - Mar 2001	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 2001 - Oct 2007	5.7	4.9	4.2	2.7	3.0	1.7	2.4	1.5	4.7
Nov 2007	5.8	5.0	4.3	2.8	3.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	4.8
Dec 2007	5.9	5.1	4.4	2.8	3.3	1.7	1.9	1.6	4.8
Jan 2008	6.0	5.3	4.5	2.9	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.7	4.9
Feb 2008	6.2	5.4	4.7	3.0	3.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	4.9
Mar 2008	6.4	5.5	4.8	3.0	3.9	1.8	1.5	1.8	5.0
Apr 2008	6.5	5.8	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.8	1.4	1.9	5.1
May 2008	6.6	5.9	5.3	3.3	4.3	1.9	1.3	2.0	5.2
Jun 2008	6.8	6.1	5.5	3.3	4.5	1.9	1.3	2.1	5.2
Jul 2008 - Aug 2009	8.9	8.0	7.3	4.4	6.0	2.5	1.6	2.7	7.5
Sep 2009	8.3	7.4	6.7	4.1	5.5	2.3	1.5	2.5	7.0
Oct 2009	7.7	6.9	6.3	3.8	5.2	2.1	1.4	2.3	6.5
Nov 2009	7.2	6.5	5.9	3.6	4.8	2.0	1.3	2.2	6.1
Dec 2009 - Jun 2013	6.8	6.1	5.5	3.3	4.5	1.9	1.3	2.1	5.8
Jul 2013 onwards	7.3	6.7	8.5	3.8	5.8	1.7	1.4	2.5	7.1
NILF									
Feb 1978 - Sep 1982	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 1982 - Aug 1987	4.0	4.0	3.2	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep 1987 - Aug 1992	4.5	4.5	3.2	2.2	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 1992 - Aug 1997	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 1997 - Mar 2001	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 2001 - Oct 2007	5.9	4.8	4.4	2.5	2.9	1.3	1.8	1.3	5.3
Nov 2007	6.0	4.9	4.5	2.5	3.0	1.4	1.7	1.4	5.3

Dec 2007	6.1	5.0	4.5	2.6	3.0	1.4	1.6	1.4	5.4
Jan 2008	6.2	5.1	4.6	2.6	3.1	1.4	1.5	1.4	5.4
Feb 2008	6.2	5.2	4.7	2.7	3.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	5.5
Mar 2008	6.6	5.4	4.8	2.7	3.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	5.6
Apr 2008	6.7	5.6	5.3	2.9	3.7	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.7
May 2008	6.8	5.7	5.5	2.9	3.9	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun 2008	6.9	5.9	5.6	3.0	4.0	1.5	1.0	1.7	5.8
Jul 2008 - Aug 2009	8.7	7.4	7.1	3.7	5.1	1.9	1.3	2.0	8.3
Sep 2009	8.1	7.0	6.6	3.5	4.8	1.7	1.2	1.9	7.8
Oct 2009	7.7	6.6	6.2	3.3	4.5	1.7	1.1	1.8	7.3
Nov 2009	7.2	6.2	5.9	3.1	4.2	1.6	1.1	1.7	6.9
Dec 2009 - Jun 2013	6.9	5.9	5.6	3.0	4.0	1.5	1.0	1.7	6.5
Jul 2013 onwards	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0

Capital City / Balance of State	Sep 1992 - Aug 1997	Sep 1997 - Mar 2001	Apr 2001 - Oct 2007	Nov 2007 - Jun 2008	Jul 2008 - Nov 2009	Dec 2009 - Jun 2013	From Jul 2013
Sydney	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.8	7.3	5.8	8.1
Balance of NSW	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.7	7.2	5.7	8.0
Melbourne	4.6	4.6	4.2	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.7
Balance of Victoria	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.9	6.1	4.9	3.6
Brisbane	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.3	5.4	4.3	7.0
Balance of Queensland	3.6	4.3	3.7	4.7	5.8	4.7	7.6
Adelaide	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.5	3.1	2.5	3.2
Balance of South Australia	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.9	2.4	2.9
Perth	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	3.4	4.1
Balance of Western Australia	2.9	2.8	2.3	3.2	4.0	3.2	3.8
Hobart	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3
Balance of Tasmania	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.6

Regions	Nov 2007 - Jun 2008	Jul 2008 - Nov 2009	Dec 2009 - Jun 2013	From Jul 2013
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	8.0	10.5	8.0	10.5
Inner Sydney	8.5	11.1	8.5	11.0
Inner Western Sydney	7.4	9.8	7.4	9.7
Eastern Suburbs	9.6	12.5	9.6	12.5
St. George-Sutherland	7.3	9.6	7.3	9.6
Canterbury-Bankstown	7.3	9.5	7.3	9.5
Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney	7.4	9.7	7.4	9.7
Fairfield-Liverpool	7.5	9.8	7.5	9.8
Outer South Western Sydney	7.3	9.6	7.3	9.5
Central Western Sydney	7.9	10.4	7.9	10.3
North Western Sydney	7.3	9.5	7.3	9.5
Lower Northern Sydney	7.8	10.3	7.8	10.2
Central Northern Sydney	7.2	9.5	7.2	9.4
Northern Beaches	7.8	10.2	7.8	10.1
Gosford-Wyong	7.4	9.7	7.4	9.6
Hunter	7.1	9.3	7.1	9.2

Newcastle	7.1	9.3	7.1	9.2
Hunter excluding Newcastle	7.1	9.3	7.1	9.3
Illawarra and South Eastern NSW	7.7	10.1	7.7	10.1
Illawarra	8.1	10.6	8.1	10.5
Wollongong	7.6	10.0	7.6	9.9
Illawarra excluding Wollongong	9.0	11.7	9.0	11.7
South Eastern NSW	7.2	9.4	7.2	9.3
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	7.6	10.0	7.6	9.9
Northern, Far West, North Western and Central West NSW	7.5	9.8	7.5	9.7
Northern, North Western and Central West NSW	7.6	9.9	7.6	9.9
Far West NSW	6.4	8.4	6.4	8.4
Murray-Murrumbidgee	7.5	9.9	7.5	9.8
North Western Melbourne	6.5	8.5	6.5	5.0
Outer Western Melbourne	5.9	7.8	5.9	4.6
Inner Melbourne	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.8
North Eastern Melbourne	6.4	8.3	6.4	5.0
Inner Eastern Melbourne	6.1	8.0	6.1	4.7
Southern Melbourne	6.3	8.2	6.3	4.9
Outer Eastern Melbourne	6.5	8.5	6.5	5.1
South Eastern Melbourne	6.1	8.0	6.1	4.8
Mornington Peninsula	6.2	8.1	6.2	4.8
Barwon-Western District	6.3	8.2	6.3	4.9
Central Highlands-Wimmera	6.8	8.9	6.8	5.3
Loddon-Mallee	6.5	8.6	6.5	5.1
Goulbourn-Ovens-Murray	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.6
All Gippsland	7.0	9.1	7.0	5.4
Brisbane City Inner Ring	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.0
Brisbane City Outer Ring	5.6	7.3	5.6	8.7
South and East BSD Balance	5.6	7.3	5.6	8.7
North BSD Balance	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.3
Ipswich City	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.3
Gold Coast	6.2	8.1	6.2	9.7
Gold Coast North	7.4	9.7	7.4	11.6
Gold Coast South	5.9	7.7	5.9	9.2
Sunshine Coast	5.9	7.7	5.9	9.2
West Moreton	5.9	7.7	5.9	9.2
Wide Bay-Burnett	6.2	8.2	6.2	9.8
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Qld	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0
Darling Downs-South West Qld	6.3	8.2	6.3	9.8
Northern-North West Qld	6.4	8.4	6.4	10.0
Far North Qld	6.7	8.8	6.7	10.5
Northern Adelaide	3.0	3.9	3.0	3.7
Western Adelaide	3.4	4.4	3.4	4.2
Eastern Adelaide	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.8
Southern Adelaide	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.8
Southern and Eastern SA	2.8	3.7	2.8	3.5
Northern and Western SA	3.4	4.4	3.4	4.2
Central Metropolitan Perth	4.8	6.3	4.8	5.8
East Metropolitan Perth	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.3
North Metropolitan Perth	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.2
South West Metropolitan Perth	4.2	5.5	4.2	5.0
South East Metropolitan Perth	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.4
Lower Western WA	3.8	5.0	3.8	4.5

Remainder-Balance WA	4.5	5.8	4.5	5.3
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3
Southern Tas	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.3
Northern Sector Tas	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.8
Mersey-Lyell Sector	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.9

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website – except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark – is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence